

RNR 152  
BARBIE

BY RENE VILLEGAS  
LA PAZ, MARCH 7, REUTER - NATURALIZED BOLIVIAN BUSINESSMAN  
KLAUS ALTMANN, WANTED BY FRANCE ON WAR CRIMES CHARGES,  
DENOUNCED HIS DETENTION BY THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES TODAY  
AS A "JURIDICAL ERROR."

THE EVENING NEWSPAPER ULTIMA HORA ALSO QUOTED THE MYSTERIOUS  
GERMAN AS SAYING "MY NAME AND REAL IDENTITY IS KLAUS ALTMANN. I  
USED THE NAME OF KLAUS BARBIE ONLY DURING THE (SECOND WORLD) WAR."  
ALTMANN WAS ARRESTED HERE LAST FRIDAY AFTER, THE PUBLIC  
PROSECUTOR SAID, HE HAD ADMITTED BEING BARBIE - FORMER NAZI COMMANDER  
IN LYONS WHO WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH IN HIS ABSENCE BY A FRENCH  
MILITARY COURT FOR THE TORTURE AND MURDER OF RESISTANCE  
FIGHTERS.

THE PROSECUTOR SAID HE HAD ORDERED ALTMANN'S ARREST BECAUSE  
OF A RUMOR HE MIGHT FLEE THE COUNTRY TO ESCAPE A FRENCH EXTRADITION  
REQUEST MADE EARLY LAST YEAR.

IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH ULTIMA HORA, GIVEN IN HIS PRISON CELL,  
ALTMANN DENIED SUCH AN INTENTION.  
MORE LEN/MJ 1940

RNR 153

BARBIE & LA PAZ

ALTMANN'S LAWYER HAS ALSO CLAIMED THERE IS NO LEGAL REASON  
FOR ALTMANN'S ARREST. BUT THE PROSECUTOR SAYS HE MUST BE HELD IN  
PREVENTIVE DETENTION UNTIL THE BOLIVIAN SUPREME COURT ESTABLISHES  
HIS IDENTITY AND WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY BREACH OF THE  
IMMIGRATION LAWS.

IN THE INTERVIEW ALTMANN SAID HE WAS SURPRISED HE HAD BEEN  
ARRESTED "FOR A WAR STORY 30 YEARS OLD" AND ADDED: "I HAVE THE  
IMPRESSION OF BEING INVESTIGATED BY A FRENCH JUDGE AND NOT BY  
A BOLIVIAN PROSECUTOR."

HE SAID ALL HIS DOCUMENTATION WAS IN GOVERNMENT HANDS AND HE  
HAD NEVER BEEN BOTHERED FOR ANY REASON BEFORE.

ASKED ABOUT A PENDING EXTRADITION REQUEST FROM PERU, WHERE  
HE IS WANTED FOR ALLEGED FRAUD, ALTMANN SAID "IT MUST BE A MISTAKE  
OR A NEW ACCUSATION STEMMING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE OF  
WHICH I AM A VICTIM."

HE SAID THIS CAMPAIGN WAS MOUNTED FROM ABROAD "INSPIRED  
BY THE RACIST SA  
XXX

BY THE RACIST BEATE KLARSFELD" - A NOTED WEST GERMAN  
WOMAN NAZI HUNTER.  
REUTER LEN/MJ 1941

20-ALTOPAC-11 K  
DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2000 2006